A RED GATE?!
...MISTER, WHAT'S A RED GATE?
A SPECIAL GATE THAT CONNECTS US TO ANOTHER DIMENSION.
ONCE YOU STEP FOOT INSIDE A RED GATE, YOU BECOME COMPLETELY CUT OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD, WHICH MEANS WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET ANY HELP.
THERE'S NO ESCAPING UNLESS THE BOSS IS DEFEATED, OR A DUNGEON BREAK OCCURS.
IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE STRANDED HERE.

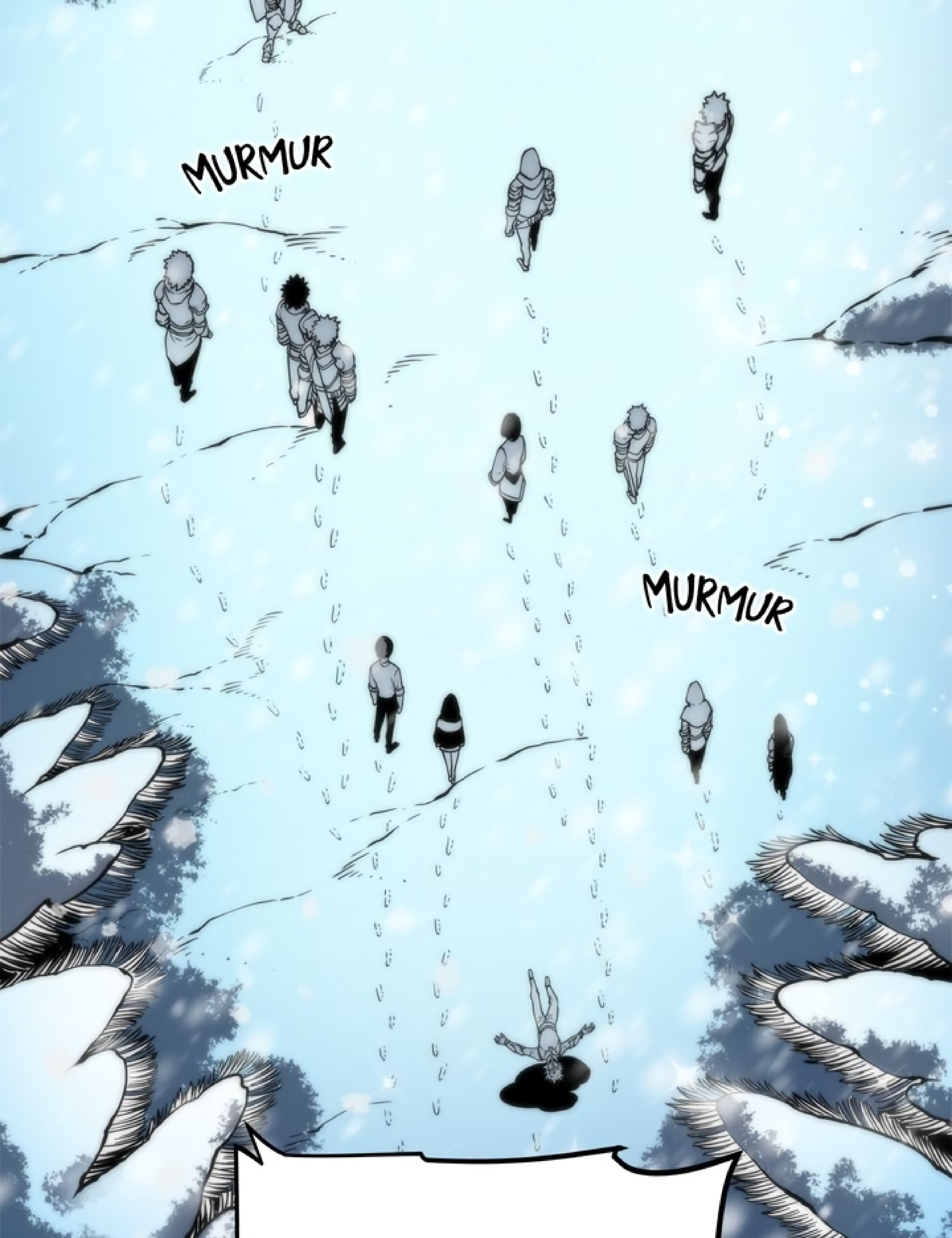
Solo Leveling

Art DUBU(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Novel Chugong
Story h-goon

49

NOW THAT EVERYONE KNOWS WE'VE ENTERED A RED GATE, I'LL SEE TO IT THAT WE MAKE A SAFE RETURN!

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO STAND HERE AND MAKE PROMISES I CAN'T KEEP.
WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT MANY MONTHS FOR A DUNGEON BREAK TO OCCUR, SO THERE'S NO GUARANTEE ALL OF US WILL BE ABLE TO SURVIVE UNTIL THEN.
THE MINIMUM DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF A RED GATE IS B-RANK.
IN A PLACE AS DANGEROUS AS THIS, IT'LL BE DIFFICULT TO MANAGE ALL OF YOU AS A SINGLE UNIT...
...WHICH IS WHY I'M GOING TO FORM A SEPARATE TEAM TO CLEAR THE DUNGEON WITH ME.
WHAT?!
IF WE STAY HERE, WE'LL EITHER FREEZE TO DEATH OR BE AMBUSHED BY THOSE ICE CREATURES AGAIN.
EVEN IF NOBODY WANTS TO JOIN MY TEAM, I'LL GET OUT OF HERE BY CLEARING THIS DUNGEON BY MYSELF.


MURMUR
MURMUR
WHO'S WITH ME?

I'LL GO WITH YOU.
COUNT ME IN.
THOSE GUYS HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF SURVIVAL IF THEY JOIN FORCES WITH AN A-RANK HUNTER.

YOU'RE OUT.
SHOVE
URGH

YOU TOO.
AND YOU,
YOU,
YOU AS WELL.
I'M SORRY, BUT HUNTERS THAT ARE C-RANK OR LOWER CAN'T COME WITH ME.
ONE DAY INSIDE A RED GATE IS EQUIVALENT TO ONE HOUR IN REAL TIME.
IF WORSE COMES TO WORST, IT'LL TAKE US MONTHS TO DEFEAT THE BOSS. WE MAY EVEN HAVE TO WAIT JUST AS LONG FOR THE DUNGEON TO BREAK OPEN.

UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I CAN'T AFFORD TO BRING ALONG ANY DEAD WEIGHT.
DID YOU JUST CALL US "DEAD WEIGHT"...?
DON'T BE TOO UPSET.
IF YOU'RE STILL ALIVE WHEN WE DEFEAT THE BOSS, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT OUT OF HERE, TOO.
BUT STILL...
EXCUSE ME.

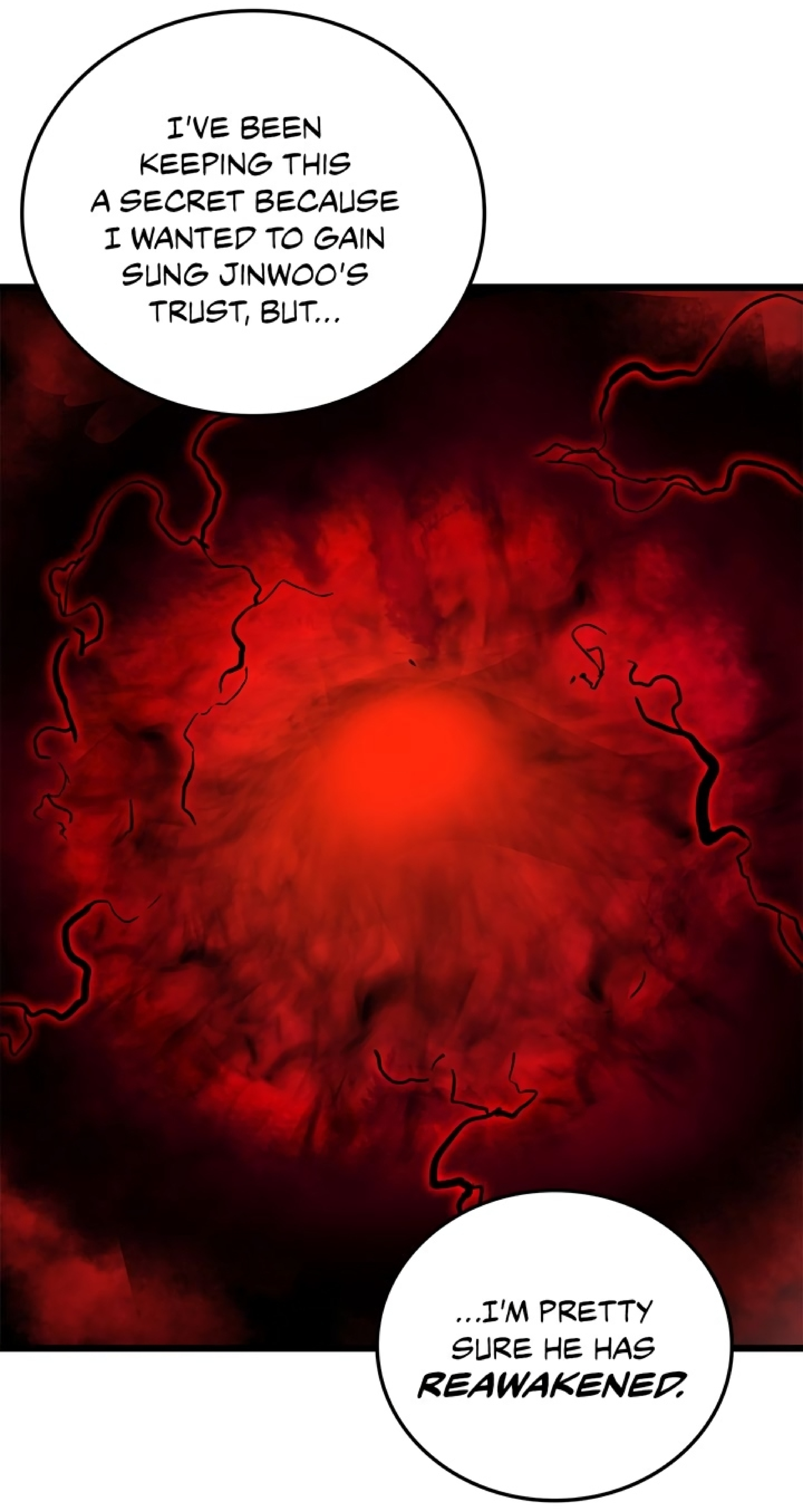
WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I WENT WITH THOSE GUYS INSTEAD?

...AS YOU PLEASE.
I'M AN A-RANK, BUT SHE WANTS TO GO WITH THEM INSTEAD?
DOES SHE FEEL BAD FOR THEM...?
WHAT'S WITH THIS WOMAN?

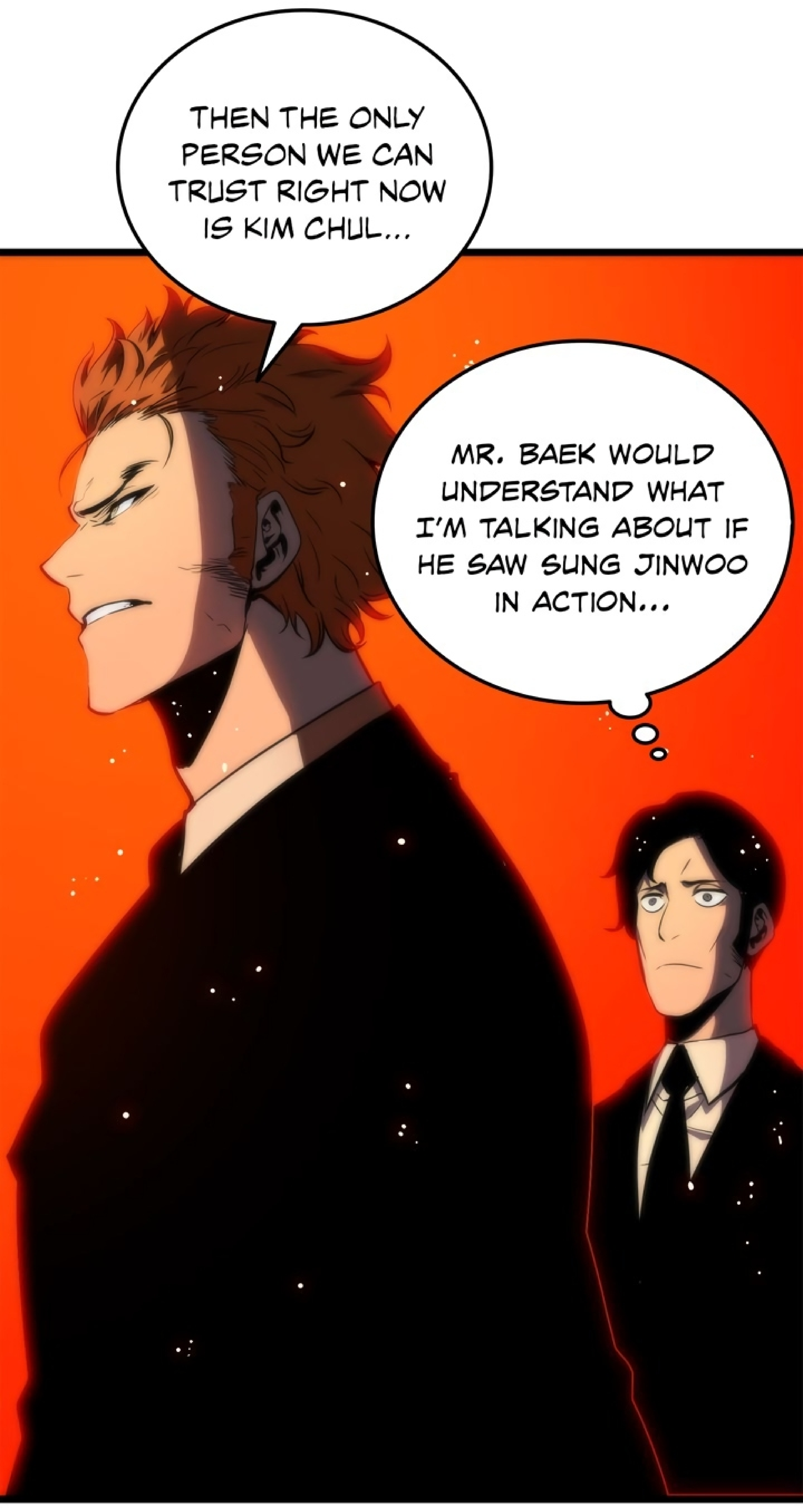
NOW THAT A SPOT ON MY TEAM HAS OPENED UP, I'M WILLING TO TAKE ONE MORE PERSON. JUST ONE.
M, ME! I'LL GO WITH YOU.

KIM CHUL...
SWISH
...DIDN'T EVEN SEE THE ARROW THAT WAS SHOT AT US.

YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY AN E-RANK, ARE YOU?


I'VE BEEN KEEPING THIS A SECRET BECAUSE I WANTED TO GAIN SUNG JINWOO'S TRUST, BUT...
...I'M PRETTY SURE HE HAS *REAWAKENED.*

ARE YOU POSITIVE?
ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT JUST SPECULATION?
HE NEVER GAVE ME A CLEAR ANSWER...
WELL, YES, IT'S JUST MY GUESS FOR NOW...


THEN THE ONLY PERSON WE CAN TRUST RIGHT NOW IS KIM CHUL...
MR. BAEK WOULD UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT IF HE SAW SUNG JINWOO IN ACTION...

KIM CHUL CAN HANDLE THIS, SIR.
MANAGER OF THE SURVEILLANCE TEAM'S 1ST DIVISION, JOO SUNGCHAN.

HE'S HAD AN EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE RECORD.
HIS FIGHTING ABILITIES ARE COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF THE WHITE TIGER GUILD'S MOST SEASONED STRIKE SQUAD MEMBERS.
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.
KIM CHUL IS AN A-RANK HUNTER.
EVEN WHEN WEIGHED AGAINST OTHER HIGHER-RANKING HUNTERS, HE'S A TALENT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE.
HOPEFULLY, AS THE LEADER OF THE STRIKE SQUAD, HE'LL BE ABLE TO COMMAND THE B-RANK HUNTERS AND CLEAR THE DUNGEON!
I COULDN'T HELP BUT OVERHEAR... YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT AN E-RANK HUNTER...
...THAT MIGHT'VE BEEN REAWAKENED, YES?

IN MY OPINION, KIM CHUL IS MILES MORE QUALIFIED THAN SOME NAMELESS, INEXPERIENCED HUNTER.

WE'LL SEE WHO'S RIGHT IN THE END...

!
SCREECH

WHAT THE HELL? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

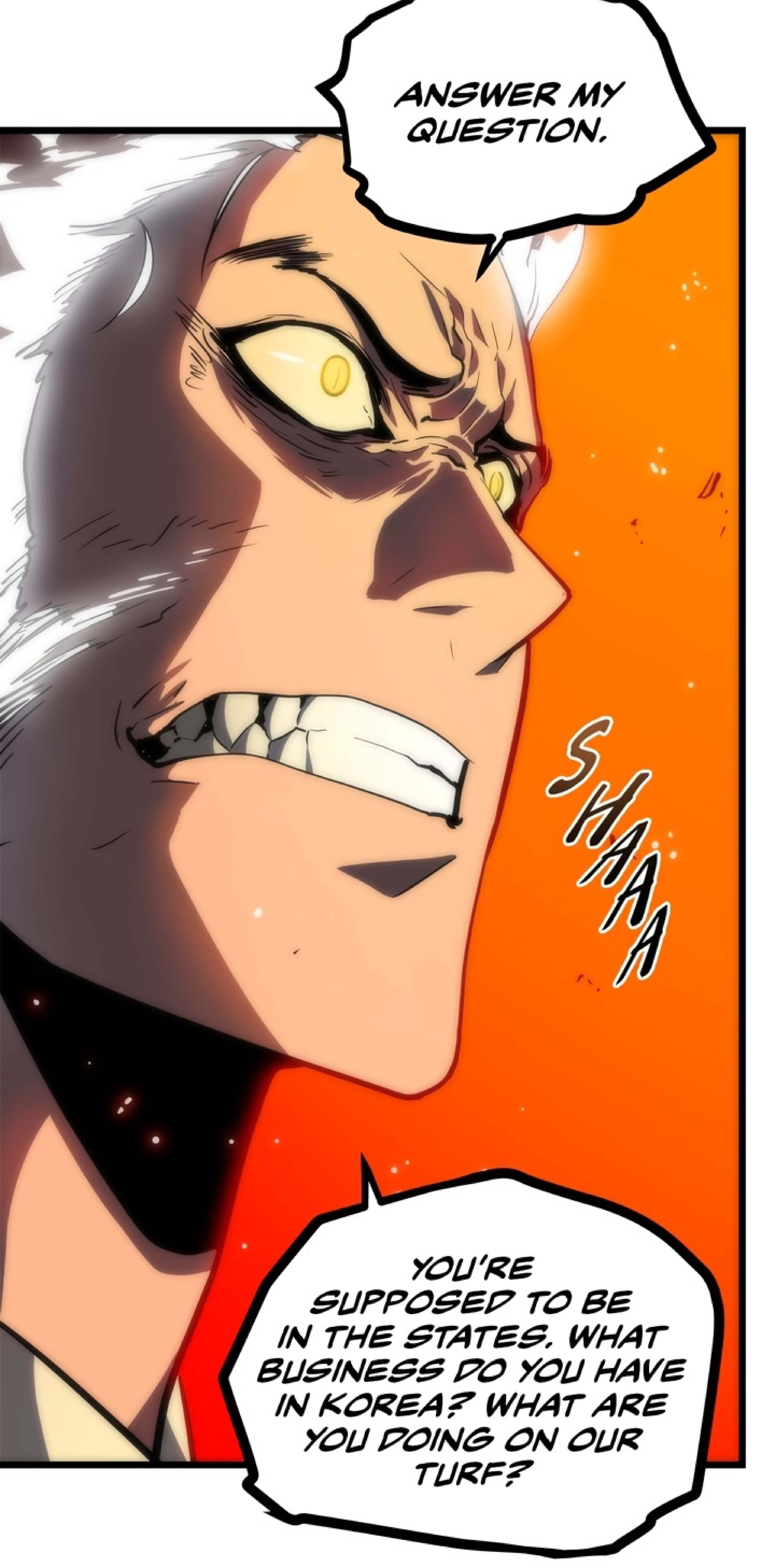
I'M PRETTY SURE THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A C-RANK GATE...
DID AN A-RANK GATE APPEAR OR SOMETHING?

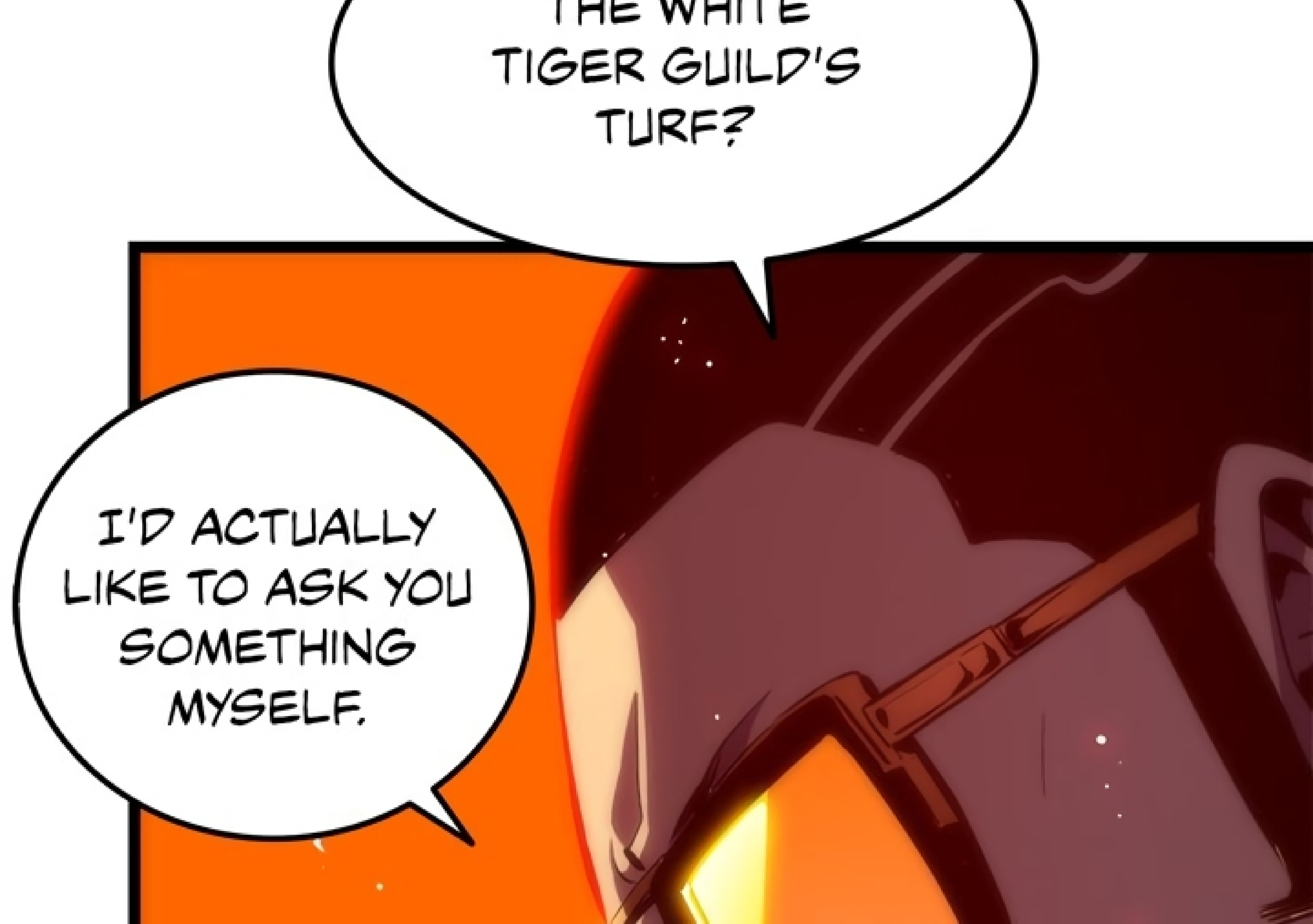
WHAT'S A BIG SHOT FROM THE WHITE TIGER GUILD DOING HERE?

HWANG DONGSOO?!

TH, THAT'S...!!
H, HWANG DONGSOO!
AN S-RANK HUNTER FROM THE SCAVENGER GUILD, HWANG DONGSOO!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, BAEK YOONHO.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN KOREA...?
MADE A QUICK VISIT TO TAKE CARE OF SOME BUSINESS. NEVER THOUGHT I'D RUN INTO YOU HERE.
SMALL WORLD, EH?

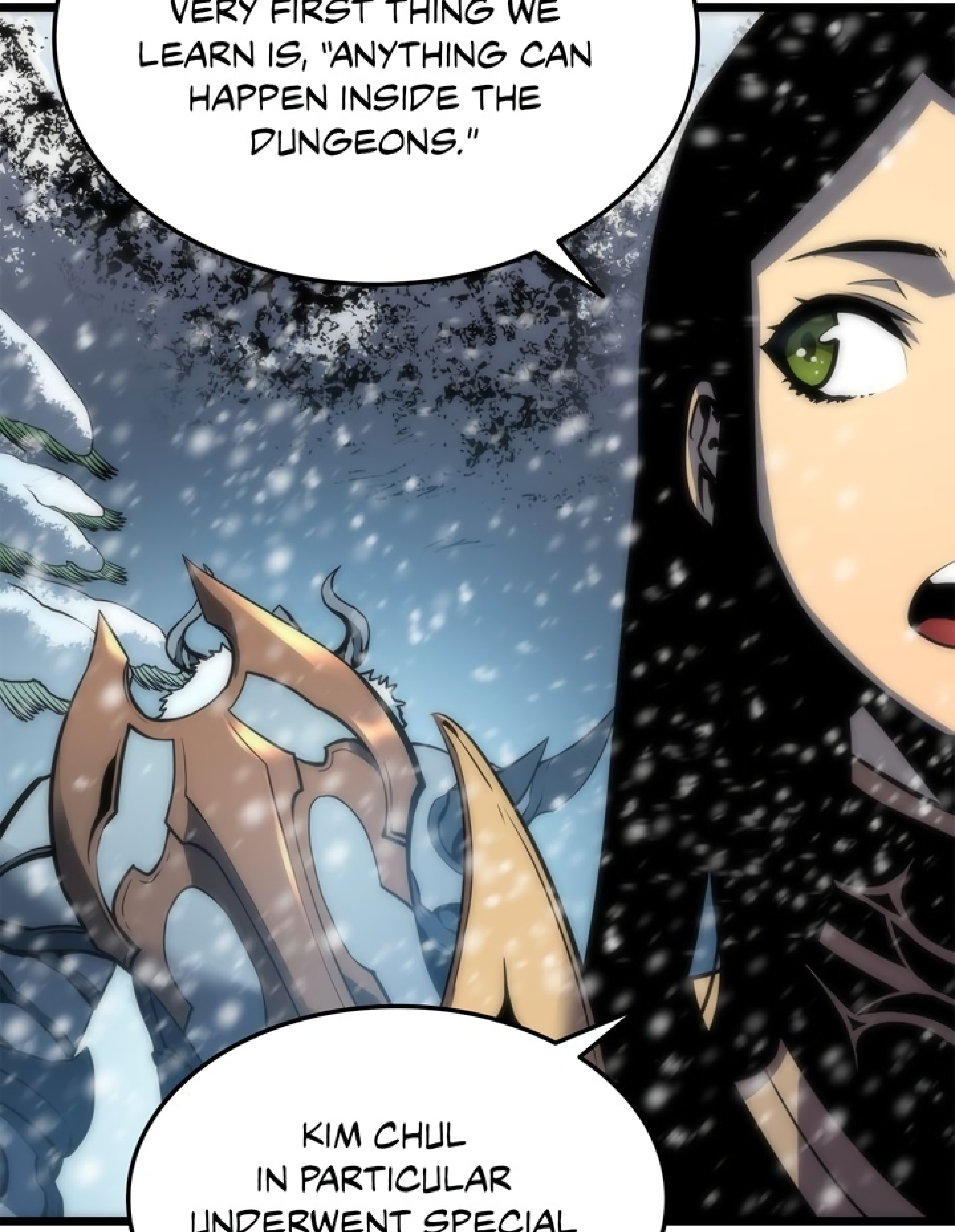

ANSWER MY QUESTION.
SHAAA
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE STATES. WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE IN KOREA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON OUR TURF?


THE WHITE TIGER GUILD'S TURF?
I'D ACTUALLY LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING MYSELF.

DID THAT LAME HUNTER JOIN THE WHITE TIGER GUILD?
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, MAN?
WHY DID YOU RECRUIT AN E-RANK LOSER?
E-RANK?
WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'M TALKING ABOUT SUNG JINWOO, WHO JUST ENTERED THAT GATE.
SUNG JINWOO?

HOW DOES HWANG DONGSOO KNOW HIM, TOO?!
WHAT'S GOING ON OVER HERE?
IS THIS A... RED GATE?
THEN...
...LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING, TOO.
YOU GUYS ARE ALL NEW RECRUITS,

HOW ARE YOU ALL SO CALM RIGHT NOW?



...GOOD LUCK.

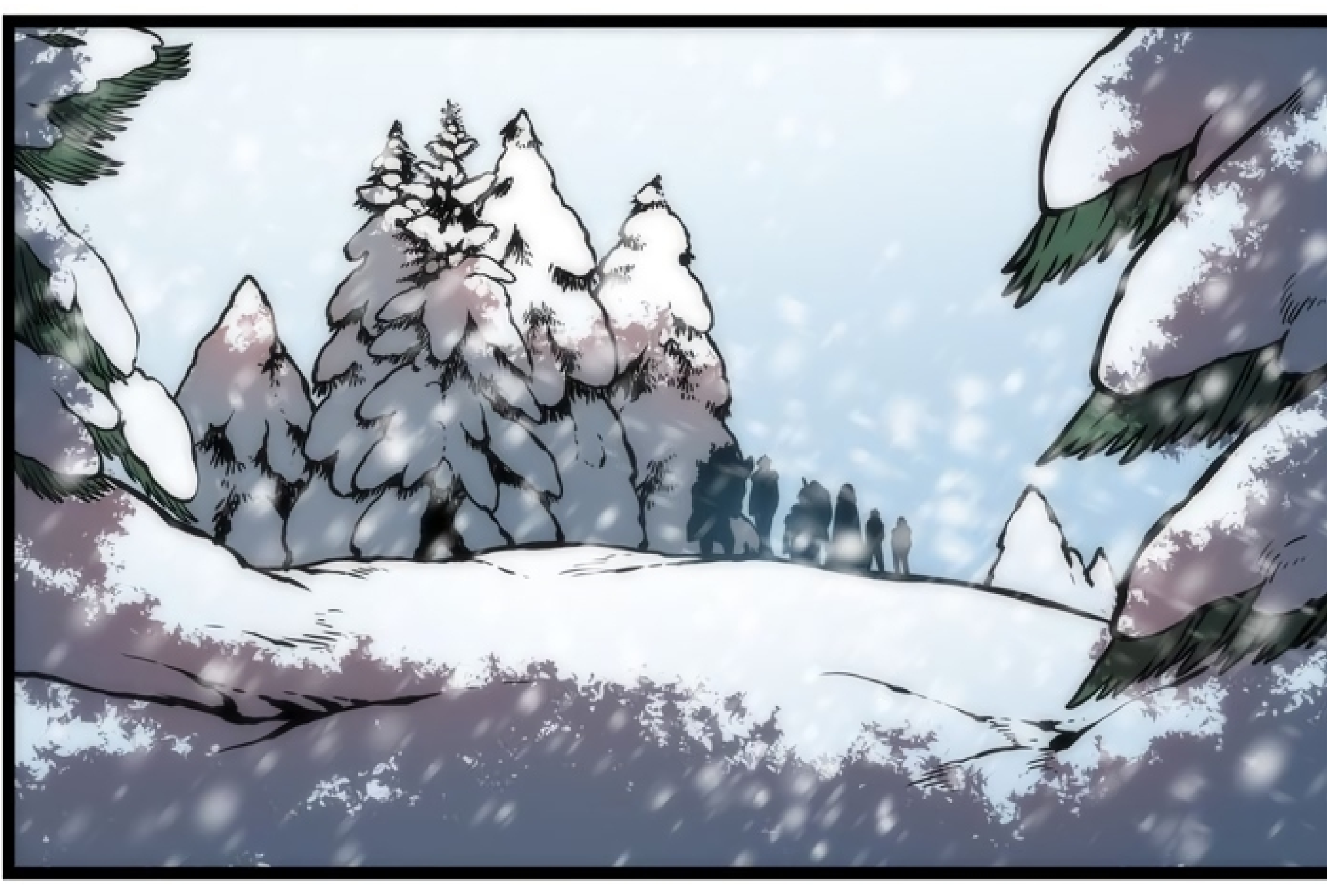
YOU TOO.

HEY,

YOU NEVER ANSWERED MY QUESTION.

MY RANK? WHO'S TO SAY.
THIS GUY'S AT LEAST AN A-RANK.

NO, HE MIGHT
EVEN BE...



IDIOTS.
SORRY?

LOOK OVER THERE.
TH...THAT'S!

TSK, TSK. THEY SHOULD'VE JUST STAYED PUT AND WAITED HERE.
THE FOREST IS THE ICE BEARS' TERRITORY.
LOOKS LIKE INNOCENT LIVES WILL BE LOST ALL BECAUSE OF THAT ONE E-RANK HUNTER.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM AN E-RANKER? HE PROBABLY DIDN'T EVEN RECEIVE PROPER TRAINING.
YOU'RE RIGHT. OF COURSE HE DIDN'T.
...HANG ON.
MOST OF THE MEMBERS ON THAT TEAM ARE C-RANK. THERE WAS EVEN A B-RANK AMONG THEM...
SO WHY ON EARTH DID I THINK HE WAS THE LEADER OF THEIR GROUP?
...WHATEVER.
HE'S AS GOOD AS DEAD.
LET'S JUST

STICK TO OUR OWN PLAN.
THUD

RAISE

IT'S TIME FOR BATTLE.

CAN'T BELIEVE I RAN INTO A RED GATE AFTER COMING ALL THIS WAY...
YOU'RE A HARD MAN TO TRACK DOWN, SUNG JINWOO.
!!

WHY IS EVERYONE SO FIXATED ON SUNG JINWOO...?

To Be Continued...

Solo Leveling

D&C WEBTOON

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